

Exhibit No. 4Date 2-18-2009Bill No. SB446

Mr. Chairperson, Members of the Committee, my name is Amy Christensen. I'm here today on behalf of Shodair Children's Hospital. Shodair supports this bill but needs an amendment to clarify the meaning of the emergency care requirement proposed in this bill as applied to a hospital like Shodair.

As most of you probably know, Shodair is a children's psychiatric hospital. We do not have an emergency room and we do not have a psychiatrist physically at the hospital 24 hours a day. Doing so would be cost prohibitive to our operation.

Shodair does have an RN on site at the hospital 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When an emergency situation occurs, one of our psychiatrists is on call and available to be at the hospital within 20 minutes.

We cannot provide general emergency care, and to do so would duplicate the services of the St. Peter's Hospital Emergency Room, which is located three blocks from Shodair.

When emergency situations involving child psychiatric matters are presented at Shodair, we deal with them and provide that emergency care. However, we are not able to provide emergency care beyond the scope of the child psychiatric services we provide. When a situation outside our scope of services is presented, we transfer the patient to St. Peter's Hospital and we do so in the proper fashion with notice to St. Peter's and whatever medical records we have for the patient involved.

What Shodair needs is an amendment to subsection (28)(a)(i) in Section 1 of the bill. This provision deals with hospitals specializing in providing services for psychiatric, developmentally disabled and tubercular patients. Shodair proposes to add to that provision a statement that the requirement for emergency care for hospitals specializing in psychiatric, developmentally disabled, and tubercular patients shall be deemed to be satisfied by providing emergency care within the scope of the specialized services provided by the hospital and by having an organized medical staff that is on call and available within 20 minutes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with 24-hour nursing care by licensed, registered nurses. If this amendment is adopted, Shodair supports this bill and has no opposition to it. We appreciate the Committee's consideration of this request. I would be glad to answer any questions the Committee might have concerning Shodair's request.

A copy of Shodair's proposed amendment is attached.